



# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States

Northern  
Colorado  
Chapter

September-October 2013

Volume 9, Number 4

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROGRAM.** Thursday, 12 September, at 7:30 p.m. at the Christ United Methodist Church, 301 East Drake St., Fort Collins. Alison Weir will present, "What Americans Need to Know about Israel-Palestine." See page 3 for details.

**UNA—GLOBAL VILLAGE MUSEUM EVENT.** Sunday, 22 September, at 2:30 p.m. at the Global Village Museum, 200 W. Mountain, Fort Collins. Dr. Glenn Morris will discuss the "Doctrine of Discovery." Attendees will be able to view the "Legacy of the Andes" exhibition. See the next column for details.

**UN DAY CELEBRATION.** On Sunday, 27 October, UNA will be celebrating UN Day by honoring the winners of our local middle school essay contest. Time and location will be announced in late September.

### SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES

Because many meeting rooms have established a policy of not accepting reservations more than a month in advance, we often cannot include specific location information in our early announcements. We will send out e-mail announcements as soon as we can confirm times and locations and we apologize for the inconvenience.

*Susan Solick, Editor*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope you have all enjoyed our wonderful summer and are ready for an exciting fall. On 22 September, we are joining with the Global Village Museum to present "Doctrine of Discovery" (see next column); and, on 27 October, we will be celebrating UN Day by honoring our Middle School Essay winners (and eating cake). I hope you will all join us for these events.

This month, I am thrilled to announce an exciting PERK for our Northern Colorado UNA Members. As the instructor for the brand new Peace Journalism class at Colorado State University, I have received the department's permission to open the Guest Lecture Series part of the course, called *In the Trenches*, FREE to all interested UNA members. Details are provided on page 4.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience if you are interested.

*Elissa Tivona, President*  
[etivona@harmonydesigngroup.com](mailto:etivona@harmonydesigngroup.com)  
970-223-8944

## UNA PRESENTS DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY

On Sunday, 22 September, at 2:30, at the Global Village Museum, Dr. Glenn Morris will speak on the *Doctrine of Discovery* and its present-day implications.

Dr. Morris is an Associate Professor at University of Colorado, Denver.

His areas of expertise are indigenous peoples in the international legal and political arena, public law, civil liberties, and race/gender and the law.

He teaches "Indigenous Peoples' Politics," "Indigenous Political Systems," and "Advanced Indigenous Politics." As a graduate of Harvard Law School, he also teaches a variety of law-related courses for the department, including "Race, Gender, Law and Public Policy," "Contemporary Issues in Civil Liberties," "Judicial Politics," and a freshmen seminar, "Law 101."

Professor Morris directs the Fourth World Center (FWC) for the Study of Indigenous Law and Politics at CU-Denver, which provides resources for the examination of the condition of indigenous peoples in a global context. Professor Morris has been designated a permanent President's Teaching Scholar by UCD and is recipient of the Rosa Parks Civil Rights Award, Native American Educator of the Year Award, and the Martin Luther King Peace Award.

Attendees will also be able to view the "Legacy of the Andes" exhibition. **WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



### DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY

*In 1493, Pope Alexander VI's Demarcation Bull gave Christian explorers the 'right' to claim lands they discovered for their Christian monarchs. Any land not inhabited by Christians was open for 'discovery.' Pagan inhabitants that would not convert to Christianity could be enslaved or killed.*

*This 'Doctrine of Discovery' concept has been continued throughout the western world. It is a concept of public international law expounded by the US Supreme Court in a series of decisions dating from 1823 to as late as 2005. The doctrine allowed colonial powers to lay claim to newly discovered lands throughout the Americas and Africa and has been used to support decisions invalidating or ignoring aboriginal possession of land.*

## ADVOCACY REPORT

On 7 June members of UNA-USA from across Colorado had the opportunity to meet with UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon before he gave the commencement speech at the University of Denver. We had the opportunity to ask questions and gain insight into the inner workings of the UN and the Secretary General's role.

In response to a question on climate change, he explained that we were at a pivotal point. He described climate change as a silent, pervasive crisis and he reminded us that there is no alternative to our planet.

Regarding the international community's responsibility to protect citizens from genocide and war crimes, he discussed his visit to Rwanda. He noted that in the cases of genocide, war crimes, and ethnic cleansing, sovereignty becomes less important and he stressed the need for the international community to realize this in Syria. He stated that the international community cannot indefinitely wait and must make a decision on how to proceed.

Finally, the group discussed the fast approaching deadline of the Millennium Development Goals. Secretary General Ban noted that these goals are set within a specific parameter and therefore even after they are met, there will still be a lot of work left to do. He went on to say that the MDGs focus on development and that we must now focus on one of the greatest global challenges--sustainability. The Secretary General affirmed that if the international community is able to create a blue print addressing climate change and sustainability, several other issues, such as food and water scarcity, would also be addressed.

*Thanks to Sara Van Velkinburgh for much of the content of this report.*

*Eleanor Dwight, Advocacy Chair*

## EDUCATION REPORT

This fall's elementary art and middle school essay contests are now underway. The topic for the art contest, grades K-5, is "*Houses Around the World*," which seemed to please the elementary art coordinators in the Poudre and Thompson districts. We hope it will stimulate some international thinking in young minds.

The middle school topic has to do with the work of the UN with refugees, with special emphasis on the Sudan. That choice was made after consulting participating teachers. Due dates for both of these contests will be mid-October and the results will be presented as usual at our annual UN Day celebration. This year, our UN Day Program will be held on October 27th. The time and location will be announced in late September.

The format for our high school essay contest will be revised this year in an attempt to make it more attractive to students and teachers. That contest will be held next spring and the topic being considered is also the world's refugee situation.

Prizes for the three contests will remain as in previous years, those being \$25, \$20 and \$15 for the first three winners in the K-2 and 3-5 art categories, and \$100, \$75 and \$50 for the winners in the middle school and high school levels. Contributions to help support these contests are needed and appreciated, so please consider contacting our chapter treasurer, Flora Teran ([fltevar@yahoo.com](mailto:fltevar@yahoo.com)) if you are so moved.

*Dick Rush, Grade School Art Sub-Committee*

**UNA—70 YEARS OLD.** A new UNA history section has been added to the national UNA website with an interactive timeline, articles, annual meeting awards and recognition of lifetime members and leaders. **CHECK IT OUT:** <http://www.unausa.org/70th-anniversary> ,



*Meeting with Secretary General Ban.*

*Photo by Monica Johnson*

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**99 AND COUNTING:** The summer report from National shows our Chapter as having 99 members! We'd really like to make it at least 100 this year. That sounds easy, **but**:

There are 17 households who have a status of "lapsed," which means their dues are overdue and they may be dropped off the list of members at the end of September. I have sent reminders to these folks, by both e-mail and postal service. If you think you may be one, or if you have questions about how to pay your dues, please contact me at [Macsmith36@aol.com](mailto:Macsmith36@aol.com) or 970-493-3857.

### WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Chelsea Shelton [chelsea.r.shelton@gmail.com](mailto:chelsea.r.shelton@gmail.com)

Kathryn Wegrzyn [boutiquebravo@gmail.com](mailto:boutiquebravo@gmail.com)

*Margaret Smith, Chair*

## REPORT FROM OUR NATIONAL REP

I attended the National UNA/USA conference in June. There were quite a few excellent speakers and a great exchange of ideas for improving our chapters. The UNA/USA is in good shape due to our affiliation with the UN Foundation. The staff is very good. Troy Wolfe is really helpful to MUNs so consider calling on him for help. Lots of young people attended. I took our new member Chelsea Shelton along with me and she was thrilled to be there--she made lots and lots of contacts. While in Washington, I also called on the staff of both Udall and Polis. They are both very supportive of the UN.

In November, I will attend an interim steering committee meeting in New York City. I continue to be proud of what our chapter achieves when I see the problems some others are having.

Thanks for letting me be your representative.

*Eleanor Dwight, Regional Representative*

### OUT AND ABOUT: UNA IN THE COMMUNITY

Here are some recent activities by some of our members. They are not "official" UNA activities, but it's interesting to note what contributions some of our members make to the community.

On July 1, Bill Timpson had a "Soapbox" column on Burundi in the Coloradoan

On July 11 Bill and Jean Griswold made a presentation on Turkey at the Global Village Museum

On August 1, Flora Teran made a presentation on the development of the alphabet, at Global Village Museum (GVM).

Flora is also curating the GVM exhibit on "Legacy of the Andes" 6 September through 23 November.

## MILLENNIUM VILLAGE A SUCCESS IN RWANDA

Several years ago, the world was horrified by bloody strife between two tribes in Rwanda. Demonstrating the UN Millennium Goals in action, Mayange, a small Rwandan village was selected as a Millennium Village. It is a village of returnees--roughly 5,000 people--who came back to Rwanda after the 1994 genocide. It is surrounded by other, similar villages, with a population of Reconciliation and peaceful activities have brought healing and a sense of one spirit to the village. New schools have been established and better health facilities created. People in the village, and the surrounding villages, no longer focus on tribal differences, but on how they can work together to build successful lives.

At our meeting in June, Chelsea Shelton, a recent graduate of CSU, presented slides of the Millennium Village taken during her recent visit to Rwanda and led a great discussion on the progress there. Chelsea will be deepening her connection to working for peace as she studies for a Master's degree at the University of Peace in Costa Rica. Good Luck, Chelsea!

### THE MILLENNIUM VILLAGES PROJECT

MVP, a project of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, the UN Development Program, and Millennium Promise, is designed to end extreme poverty. The goal is to promote an integrated approach to rural development by improving access to clean water, sanitation and other essential infrastructure (e.g., education, food production, basic health care), and by focusing on environmental sustainability. A key aspect of the MVP is that each village is organized and run by the communities themselves, not by outsiders. For more information, see <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/mv/>.

### WHAT AMERICANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ISRAEL-PALESTINE

On 12 September at 7:30 p.m. at the Christ United Methodist Church, Alison Weir will present "*What Americans Need to Know about Israel-Palestine*."

Weir is president of the Council for the National Interest, an NGO based in Washington DC, and the founder of *If Americans Knew*, a think tank focusing on Israel-Palestine.

Weir has traveled the world speaking of her experiences and her findings in the West Bank and Gaza. She will discuss US news coverage of Israel-Palestine and present little-known information on the fascinating, largely hidden history of US-Israel relations.

Sponsored by Churches for Middle East Peace, Fort Collins, this event is free and open to the public. Email [Eleanor@dwrightcentral.com](mailto:Eleanor@dwrightcentral.com) for additional information.

## MANY HANDS

Our chapter has had a busy summer, starting with a wonderful presentation in June by Chelsea Shelton on the Millennium Village in Rwanda. Then, for the first time in our history, our UNA picnic was rained—or should I say “lighteninged”—out. However we managed to hold it a week later and a good time was had by all.

In August, our president called a strategy meeting to get a jump start on 2014. Why? Because fall and winter are our busiest times of the year and in January, 2014 we will be electing new Board members and officers. So we thought it was a good idea to get a head start on locating members who are interested in taking a more active role.

Our chapter is heading into its 10th year. During the past nine years, we have presented over 60 programs, awarded over 50 prizes for school essays and artwork, and we have honored and supported a number of local and international humanitarian efforts.

We've done good!!! And we've had fun doing it! We haven't intended to keep it a secret, but it is fun and very satisfying to be involved in the action.

Our Membership Chair reports that we have 99+ members and I would love to see all 99 of us get in on the action. We are all busy; but, think a bit about what you may be able to contribute.

Can you come a few minutes early to one program and help setup or greet? Can you stay a few minutes after one meeting and help us straighten the room? Can you address envelopes? If so, please tell Margaret, our Membership Chair ([macsmith36@aol.com](mailto:macsmith36@aol.com)).

Are you willing to write or sign letters to our political leaders in support of UN issues? Contact Eleanor ([Eleanor@dwightcentral.com](mailto:Eleanor@dwightcentral.com)), our Advocacy Chair.

Are you interested in helping judge the school essays or grade school pictures? If so, tell Jane Thompson ([janerich2001@yahoo.com](mailto:janerich2001@yahoo.com)) or Dick Rush ([crush@fii.com](mailto:crush@fii.com)).

Would you like to help with the newsletter or with designing flyers and announcements? If so, please notify our newsletter editor, Susan Solick ([sudisolick@gmail.com](mailto:sudisolick@gmail.com)).

If you would like to handle the blog or help with publicity, tell Eleanor ([Eleanor@dwightcentral.com](mailto:Eleanor@dwightcentral.com)).

If you have an idea for a program or event, tell one of the officers.

If you are interested in serving on the Board or in an office, notify our Nominating Committee Chair, Jane Thompson ([janerich2001@yahoo.com](mailto:janerich2001@yahoo.com)).

This fall, we have two wonderful programs to look forward to: In September, we join the Global Village Museum in presenting the Doctrine of Discovery and viewing the Legacy of the Andes; and, in October, we will be honoring our school essay winners and celebrating UN Day. Come and enjoy – and volunteer.

*Susan Solick, Vice President*

## IN THE TRENCHES: CONVERSATIONS WITH PEACE JOURNALISTS

### Attention all United Nations Association Members

-- FREE Guest Lectures in Journalism at C.S.U. --

(Clark Building, Room C-238A)

**Monday, September 23,  
4:00 pm.**



Richard Schneider, former reporter for UPI and Rocky Mountain news, award-winning scriptwriter and producer for Source Media Arts; recent author of the Vic Bengston mysteries,

featuring news journalist returning to a beat after long hiatus.

**Monday, October 28, 4:00 pm.**

Robert Koehler, legacy journalist for 30 years; author of nationally syndicated column by Tribune Media Services, part of the Chicago Tribune, and nationally recognized journalist, fiction writer and poet. Originator of website, Common Wonders, Co-creating Cultures of Peace.



**Monday, November 18, from  
London via Skype, time TBD**



Jake Lynch, international reporter and on-air news anchor for BBC World TV prior to his appointment, director of Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPACS) at University of Sydney. Leads the way in

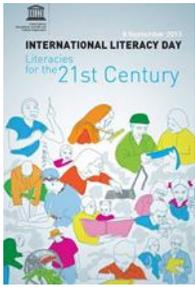
conceptual development of Peace Journalism with legendary Peace Researcher Johan Galtung and collaborator Annabel McGoldrick.

**IN THE TRENCHES** is a program of the Peace Journalism Workshop at CSU. If you are interested in attending one or more of these lectures, contact [etivona@harmonydesigngroup.com](mailto:etivona@harmonydesigngroup.com) or 970-223-8944

## THE UN AT WORK

The following are excerpts from UN News Centre (<http://www.un.org/News/>) and other authoritative news sources

**Celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> International Day of Charity.** In 2012, the UN adopted a resolution by Hungary establishing **5 September** as International Day of Charity to commemorate the passing of Mother Teresa. To see what is going on around the world, check out <http://www.plussocialgood.org/News>. International Day of Charity on Facebook, or @IndDayOfCharity on Twitter.



**Celebrate International Literacy Day on 8 September**—For over 40 years, UNESCO has been observing International Literacy Day. Join the celebration by donating books to a library or school.

*Literacy is a human right and the foundation of all learning*

**UN welcomes Myanmar's release of dozens of children from its armed forces.**

7 August—The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) welcomed the release of 68 children and young people from Myanmar's armed forces known as Tatmadaw, carried out under the auspices of an accord between the Government and the world body. Today's release follows the discharge of 42 children last September, 24 in February, and 42 children and young people in July.

**UN climate change body partners with Latin American bank to boost clean development efforts.**

23 August—The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat has signed an agreement with the Latin American Development Bank to increase participation in clean development projects in the region.

The agreement establishes a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) regional collaboration center (RCC) in Bogotá, Colombia. It will be operational in September and will provide support to all countries in Latin America.

This is the fourth CDM RCC established. The CDM RCCs are part of the effort to bring the benefits of the Kyoto Protocol's emission-reduction projects in developing countries to earn certified emission reductions – or CERs – which can then be traded, sold and used by industrialized countries to meet environmental targets. Each CER is equivalent to one ton of carbon dioxide.

**UN survey focuses on how persons with disabilities cope during disasters.**

29 July—The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) has launched an online survey to gain insight into how to help persons with disabilities cope with and prepare for disaster events. The survey focuses on issues such as the ability to protect oneself and having sufficient time to evacuate before a potential disaster. It also asks questions about knowledge, awareness and participation in disaster management plans at national and local level. Over one billion people live with some form of disability. As many as 30 million people living with a disability are affected during an average year by earthquakes and weather-related hazards. Results will be announced on International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction which is marked each year on October 13.

**UN hails entry into force of new convention for global shipping industry.**

A new UN maritime labor convention came into force on 20 August, to ensure decent work conditions for seafarers while helping provide a level playing field for ship owners.

The UN International Labor Organization's (ILO) Maritime Labor Convention (MLC 2006 sets minimum requirements for seafarers to work on a ship and contains provisions on conditions of employment, hours of work and rest, accommodation, recreational facilities, food and catering, health and medical care and welfare and social security protection.

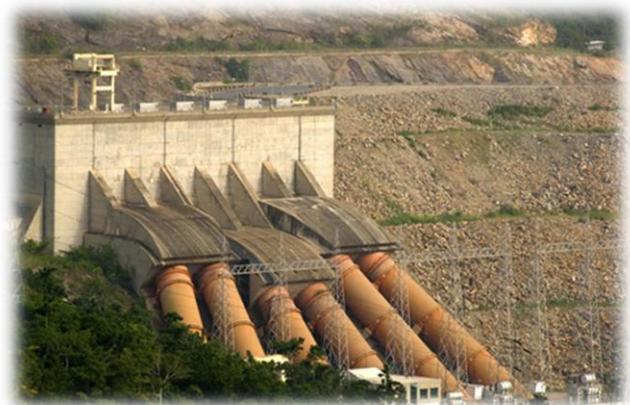
The MLC is considered the 'fourth pillar' of the most important maritime regulations covering international shipping, along with the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS); the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL); and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW).

These three IMO treaties were first adopted in the 1970s and have each been ratified by more than 150 countries, representing more than 99 per cent of world merchant shipping.

**World Bank project aims to provide low-cost energy in Africa's Great Lakes region.**

6 August—The World Bank today approved \$340 million for a hydroelectric project that aims to benefit 62 million people in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania – part of a Great Lakes regional initiative inaugurated by the Bank's President and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during their first-of-a-kind joint visit to the region in May.

The Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project will boost reliable power supply to the electricity grids of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, reduce electricity costs and promote renewable power. It will also spur job-led economic development and pave the way for more dynamic regional cooperation, peace and stability among the countries of the Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) sub-region in east Africa.



## 2012 UNA/USA NOCO Board of Directors

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### WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

#### UNA, Northern Colorado Chapter:

**Webpage:** [www.unanortherncolorado.org](http://www.unanortherncolorado.org) .

**Blog:** <http://unanoco.blogspot.com/>

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/225640767454752/>

UNA national: [www.unausa.org](http://www.unausa.org) .

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United Nations information: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) .

UN Information Center, DC: [www.unicwash.org](http://www.unicwash.org) .

**Our World 2.0**—a web-magazine produced by the UN University: [ourworld.unu.edu/en/](http://ourworld.unu.edu/en/).

#### FREE UN E-PUBLICATIONS:

**The Advocacy E-News**, the national UNA-USA bi-weekly online newsletter.

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To join UNA-USA by mail, please return this form with your check to:

**UNA of Northern Colorado,  
Margaret Smith, Membership Chair  
1980 Welch St. #31, Fort Collins CO 80525**

Your form and payment will be forwarded to the national office after being recorded locally. *Your dues include membership in both the local and national UNA-USA, which is a part of the Better World Foundation.*

Please make check payable to: *BWF/United Nations Association of the USA.*

To join online or pay by credit card, go to [www.unausa.org/join](http://www.unausa.org/join).

#### Select Appropriate Dues Category (US\$):

- 1,000 Lifetime  
 \$500 Patron  
 \$100 Sponsor  
 \$40 Member  
 \$25 Introductory (First year only)/Limited Income  
 \$10 Student/Model UN Participant  
 Join *Young Professionals for International Cooperation* (UNA program for ages 21-40)  
 Additional gift to local chapter: \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Preferred Chapter: Northern Colorado

Is this a membership renewal?  YES  NO

#### Member Information:

Member Name (please print)  Mr  Mrs  Ms  Miss  Dr

Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone or Cell Phone

Business Phone

Email Address

**My check** (payable to **BWF/United Nations Association of the USA**) is enclosed in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact our Membership Director at 970-493-3857

Membership in UNA-USA is open to any citizen or resident of the USA who is committed to the purposes of UNA-USA.

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